

Office of the State Fire Marshal

National Recognition Update

July 1, 2015

Background

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), State Fire Training Division (SFT) has been actively pursuing implementation of national recognition for the California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFTES). SFT has been working diligently to achieve accreditation from the both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) for Fire Fighter I (2013) certification. This initiative has required significant updates to curriculum, certification standards and implementation of a certification examination process. On January 16, 2015 the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) approved both implementation of the Fire Fighter I certification examination process and the SFT effort to seek accreditation from IFSAC and Pro Board. Subsequently, on May 21, 2015 the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) endorsed the action taken by STEAC and provided the final authorization for SFT to move forward with national recognition.

Next Steps

Having received approval from STEAC and SBFS, SFT has been moving forward with completion of applications and self assessment documentation for both IFSAC and Pro Board. SFT anticipates submitting these comprehensive documents for review prior to July 31, 2015. IFSAC and Pro Board will then review these documents and discuss with SFT any program changes they deem appropriate. After this review, they will schedule on-site evaluations of the California program by peer review teams. SFT anticipates completion of the program review, peer review site visits and subsequent formal approval by IFSAC and Pro Board by December 31, 2015.

Assuming full approval by IFSAC and Pro Board by December 31, 2015, SFT will conduct comprehensive program implementation during calendar year 2016. This will include:

- Working with Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP) and Accredited Local Academies (ALA) on certification examination implementation
- Conducting Lead Evaluator and Skills Evaluator training for ARTP and ALA staff on a statewide basis
- Updating Fire Fighter I (2013) certification applications to include the option for candidates to apply for IFSAC and Pro Board seals in conjunction with California certification
- Training SFT staff on processing national recognition applications from candidates
- Developing and implementing procedures for out-of-state and military candidates seeking reciprocity in California
- Developing and implementing procedures for legacy California Fire Fighter I certification holders to participate in the certification examination process and obtain IFSAC and Pro Board seals should they desire this recognition

Future Program Expansion

SFT recognizes that current California, out-of-state and military candidates desire SFT accreditation by IFSAC and Pro Board for more advanced levels of certification. No immediate work plan has been initiated to address this desire. SFT will pursue development of a work plan

after IFSAC and Pro Board accreditation is achieved and the Fire Fighter I certification examination process is fully implemented statewide.

Questions

Questions on national recognition should be directed to:

Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III
ken-wagner@comcast.net
(916) 425-2995